California GARDEN

JULY-AUGUST 1998 Volume 89 No. 4 $1.50

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

THROUGH JULY 5

DEL MAR FAIR Flower & Garden Show. Via de la Valle west to Fairgrounds. 793-5555. Parking Fee & Entrance Fee.

JULY 5

BALBOA PARK ZORO GARDEN EVENING NATURE PROGRAM. Bats-Facts & Myths. between Casa de Balboa Bldg. & R. H. Fleet Bldg. Sun. 7:30PM. Call 235-1121. Free.

JULY 7

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Subtropical Fruit Garden Tour. 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. Tue. 10:30 AM. Free. information 760/753-6757 evenings.

JULY 11

DESCANSO GARDENS A Festival of Bugs. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada, Flintridge. Sat. 10AM-12:30PM. RSVP 818/949-7980. Fee.

JULY 11-12

THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW. 1151 Oxford St., San Marino. Sat. & Sun. 10:30AM-4:30PM.

JULY 18

NEW LEAF NURSERY Lecture Series. Gardening with Geraniums. 2456 Foothill Dr., Vista. Sat. 9:30AM. 760/726-9269. Free.

JULY 18-19

S. D. COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY Show & Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 12AM-4PM.; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

JULY 25-26

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY Show & Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sale 10AM-4PM. Show Sat. 1-5PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM.

AUGUST 1-2

S. D. COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY 58th Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 1-PM; Sun. 11AM-4PM. Free.

AUGUST 2

BALBOA PARK ZORO GARDENS. Nature Program. Fascinating Insects of Balboa Park. Sun. Noon-1PM. See July 5th for information.

AUGUST 4

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Subtropical Fruit Garden Tour. 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. Tue. 10:30 AM. Free. see Jul 7

AUGUST 15-16

S. D. FERN SOCIETY Plant Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 12:30-5PM.; Sun. 10AM-5PM. Free.

AUGUST 19

NEW LEAF NURSERY Lecture. Scent-sational Geraniums. 2456 Foothill Dr., Vista. Sat. 9:30AM. 760/726-9269. Free.

AUGUST 22-23

S. D. HON NON BO CLUB Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-5PM. Free.

AUGUST 29-30

S. D. TURTLE & TORTOISE SOCIETY 24th. Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat & Sun. 9AM-5PM. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. 9AM-5PM. 436-4032.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat & Sun 9AM. 486-7238.

THE HUNTINGTON San Marino. New Children's Garden Workshop Series. Sat's. in July. 9AM-11:30PM. 626/405-2272. $10 Fee.

BALBOA PARK: ONGOING PROGRAMS

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN Docent Tours. Info 232-2780. Fee.

SAT. **OFFSHOOT TOURS** 1Hr. Meet Botanical Lath House. 10AM. 235-1121. Free.

TUES. **INTERPRETIVE WALKS** Ranger guided. Meet Visitors Center. 10AM. 235-1211. Free.

TOUR **UCSD EXTENSION** Australia: An Orchid Lover's Adventure. August 31 to September 18. RSVP 619/534-8042.

Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Sept./Oct. issue is July 15. SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

Mimulus (monkey flower)

San Diego Floral Association
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FRONT COVER pictures carnations, the official flower of the City of San Diego.

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Gleanings . . .

NEWSPAPER COMPOST . . .
Newspaper can be used in your compost pile, but it must be in small pieces and mixed well with the other materials, leaves, grass clippings, etc. If packed together, the newspaper will form hard lumps. Most newspapers are printed with soy based ink, so there is no danger from the ink. Do not use the shiny paper found in magazines and advertisements. This paper has been coated with a material to make it shiny and it is not biodegradable.

NEW CLIVIA . . .
The price of choice new yellow clivia has gone down from one thousand dollars per plant to several hundred. A regular plant sells for approximately forty dollars. This clivia has a clear bright yellow flower and designers claim it blends better with other flowers. I guess "they" do not have the lovely, iridescent orange flowers that grow here. Just a single stem of our locally grown clivia with several green leaves makes a magnificent arrangement that will last for days.

TOOL CARE . . .
After using garden tools they should be washed, dried, and coated with a light oil. One local gardener keeps a large can of sand mixed with a little light oil inside his garage. He sticks his shovels, forks, etc. in it after using them. He claims he has no rust and unless he has hit something, the tools stay sharp.

SALSA GARDEN . . .
In the popular publications produced on the East Coast for general consumption, there has been a lot of space concerning the growing of a salsa garden. This seems to consist, according to them, of growing tomatoes and chilies, with a smattering of cilantro. Apparently, they have a different salsa. Out here in San Diego we always put chopped green onions in our salsa. The writers do not mention the trouble it takes to remove the outside coating from chilies before they can be used. (Most of us use the canned, chopped green chilies). If you grow your own, remember the outer skin must be blackened by a flame to remove it and then the chile is chopped and boiled for a few minutes before it is used. So, if you want to grow a salsa garden here, grow some green onions with your tomatoes and chilies. (Incidentally, cilantro is the leaves of the coriander.)

EUCALYPTUS . . .
The eucalyptus are evergreen trees native to Australia. Many of the large Southern California trees were planted in the 1870s and 80s. Groves often had over 10,000 trees. Within a few decades the trees reached heights of 200 feet. At first it was felt that they would be useful for furniture, buildings, railroad ties, and firewood. The wood was too brittle for furniture, the trunks were too twisted for ties, but the wood is very useful for fence posts, firewood, shade, and as windbreaks to protect the orange groves. After a eucalyptus tree is 70 years old, it begins to become a problem and throughout the state many of these older trees are being removed. (Many of our Balboa Park trees are reaching the 100 year mark.) Unfortunately, no trees are being planted to replace them. There are many trees that are drought resistant that can be used. All over Southern California former wooded areas and roadsides are now becoming bare and ugly. It is time that the citizens start a "hue and cry" and demand that if one tree is cut down, another be planted to take its place. Only that way will we keep Southern California from again becoming a treeless semi-desert.

EDIBLE FLOWERS . . .
Part of "California Cuisine" includes the use of flowers in food preparation, particularly in salads. Not all flowers are edible—be wary before eating. Peppery nasturtium flowers have been used for years in salads and for food garnishing, but roses, scented geraniums, tuberous begonias, day lilies, violets, and carnations are tasty, pretty, and fun. Carnations have a clove like taste; day lilies, roses, violets, and gardenias are sweet; tuberous begonias are lemony sour. Be sure to wash flowers before using.

BALBOA PARK GARDENS . . .
The San Diego Park and Recreation Department has two new self-guided walks of Balboa Park. One guide identifies and locates on a map twenty-five trees on the west side of the Park. The guide, *Self-guided Walk of the Gardens of Balboa Park*, has an excellent map locating the eight specialty gardens. The descriptions and histories of the gardens are excellent and hours of visiting are listed. The guides are available at the Balboa Park Administration Building.

THREE EXOTIC TREES FOR SAN DIEGO

BY TOM PIERGROSSI

BY FAR THE BEST climate in which to grow plants, for me, is San Diego. By altering our growing conditions, amending our soils and watering regularly, we can grow a rich diversity of plants. Exotic sounds rare and unusual, but in fact most plants we're familiar with are exotic, that is, not from here. Many are surprised to learn that the plants we associate with San Diego are actually from somewhere else. The *Eucalyptus* is from Australia, the *Jacaranda* is from Brazil, and *Erythrinas* (coral trees) are from Mexico and South Africa. I am a landscape designer and what follows is a discussion of some of my favorites. I chose them for their beauty, ease of growth, and, when planted in the right spot, low maintenance.

While San Diego is well touted as having a Mediterranean climate, many plants from Asia also do very well here. One of these is the ***Michelia doltsopa***, a magnolia relative from the Himalayas. It's a signature tree in a Sin Jen garden. Sin Jen being an old time local landscaper now in his nineties. It is a variable evergreen tree, relatively slow growing to about twenty five feet. It has a conical shape and the head can be opened up and developed into a nicely rounded crown. *Michelia doltsopa* bears flowers along the branches and covers itself with fragrant, creamy white flowers in February and March, with some repeat in the fall, just when many of us need a lift in our gardens. *Michelia doltsopa* has a somewhat stiff architectural habit and makes a wonderful accent tree, while it also looks very natural in a grove setting. Some young specimens are planted by the old Gymnasium in Balboa Park. Like magnolias, they prefer amended soil and good drainage, with regular watering and feeding for the healthiest trees. Also try some other members of the same family, *M. champaca* (of perfume fame), *M. alba*, and *M. figo* with flowers that smell of bananas.

Another tree popularized by Sin Jen is the ***Calliandra surinamensis***, a relative of the popular *C. inaequilatera* (*C. haematocephala*), or red powder puff, which blooms in our winters. It blooms year-round with pink and white powder puffs and has an attractive open V-shape. The evergreen tree has soft pinnate leaves and is easily kept to about fifteen or twenty feet with annual lacing (a pruning technique that artistically opens up the plant), but it has the potential to reach thirty feet or more if left unrestrained. It grows relatively quickly and can be grown from seed or cuttings, tolerates poor soils, and will grow just about anywhere it is sunny as long as it is frost free. *C. surinamensis* is not commonly available, but should be. However, ABC, a wholesale nursery, has championed the cause and now grows this plant. Ask your local nurseryman to order you one; you won't be sorry.

The sweetshade or ***Hymenosporum flavum*** is from southwest Australia. It is a relative of our familiar *Pittosporum tobira* (from China). It is one of my favorite trees, being evergreen, fragrant, open in habit, but thick enough to provide screening. From first sight, most people love the shiny foliage and yellow flowers that are more golden than brassy. They bear in clusters at the ends of the branches beginning in April and continuing through early summer. Most references list it as slow, but I have seen them grow to twenty five feet in two years from a fifteen- gallon container. In youth, loose staking can help until its roots catch—a little shaping to develop a good branch structure—and eventually they can reach forty feet. It grows best out of the ocean wind but will grow almost anywhere else in San Diego County except for our highest mountains. There is a good example of a young specimen in front of a firehouse at University and Ninth Avenues, in Hillcrest. *Hymenosporums* are seed grown and can be found locally at Village Nurseries in Del Mar and Brigg's Tree Nursery in Vista or ask your local nurserymen to order one. Remember to plant responsibly, too often people don't think of the eventual size of a plant at maturity and often end up cutting them down, or have to prune frequently to keep them within bounds, wasting time, money and precious landfill space. People like to plant something familiar, so get yourself familiar with some of these trees. □

Tom Piergrossi is a local landscape designer with a small wholesale nursery in his backyard in Encinitas (open Mondays, 760/753-3208).

Hymenosporum flavum drawing by Roland S. Hoyt

THE FRAGRANT GARDEN

BY FREDRIK LILJEBLAD

THE SENSE OF SMELL, they say, is the most evocative of all our senses. Deny it if you will, the image of the most radiant camellia, the most glorious orchid fades from memory when compared to the strong, exotic perfume of a fragrant plant. Some people, it's true, find certain fragrant plants overpowering. Most of us, however, are enthralled by all floral scents, however heady they may be. Nearly all fragrant plants are quick to reward us with their scent, so it's no major undertaking to add a few specimens to an existing garden, or to create an entire garden room devoted exclusively to fragrance.

As a rule, fragrant plants are relatively undemanding of culture, and an added bonus is that few of them are overly troubled by garden pests. When choosing widely hybridized varieties of fragrant plants—nicotiana and heliotrope are perfect examples—try to get the species or an older variety since so many showier hybrids have had much of their scent bred out of them.

Except for roses and heliotrope, most plants noted for their fragrance do not come in striking colors—white is the most frequent color, followed by pale pink or pale yellow. Nature, it would seem, does not believe in overkill. Because of this, and because plant perfume is often most potent at night, a garden area devoted to fragrant flowers is often the ideal place for a sunset drink or an after-dinner stroll. With subtle night lighting to highlight the more attractive of the flowers, a fragrant garden at night can create a mood of enchantment. Or, if you like to sleep with the windows open, a few fragrant plants strategically placed near your bedroom windows will ensure a scent-filled sleep. Because moist air seems to promote the strength of plants' perfume, locating a fountain or water feature near fragrant plants is a good idea. While we're on the subject of water, water lilies, particularly tropical ones in general and night-blooming tropical varieties in particular, are often richly fragrant. One word of warning for those who like to dine alfresco: don't place fragrant plants close to a dining area—you'll hardly be able to taste your food.

Although we naturally tend to focus on plants with fragrant flowers, there is also an entire group of fragrant plants whose scent comes from their foliage. Herbs such as creeping lemon thyme (*Thymus citriodorus*) and lemon verbena are part of this group, and thyme in particular is a staple ground cover between paving stones where its pungent leaves may be crushed underfoot and so release their appetizing aroma. Scented-leaf geraniums such as *Pelargonium tomentosum*, *P.* 'Tutti-Frutti', and *P. radens* 'Dr. Livingstone' are also popular used as a path edging, where their leaves may be bruised by passing feet.

Below are some of my favorite fragrant plants, all of which I grow here in San Diego, but this is only scratching the surface. There are many others, less exotic, perhaps, but still delightfully fragrant.

Cestrum nocturnum (night-blooming jessamine). This isn't everybody's favorite fragrant plant. Some people just can't take its insignificant greenish-white flowers' truly intense scent—to me, they smell of baby oil with a dash of cloves—far more pleasant than it sounds. On sultry nights in August and September, which is when it blooms, the night perfume is wonderfully heady and exotic. This is an easy-to-grow shrubby plant with vividly green foliage. Average soil, fertilizer, and water, with lots of sun and heat will keep it happy. The one problem is its obstinately leggy growth—prune, prune, prune and then pinch back some more. It's useful to remember when pruning that flowers emerge from the leaf axils just **below** the tip growth, never at the tips themselves. The only time **not** to prune is from July through the end of bloom and then again in midwinter—December to February. Otherwise, always keep those shears at the ready!

Daphne odora. This legendarily fragrant, late-winter blooming woody shrub produces tiny clusters of dark red-pink, pointy buds that open into four-pointed, whitish-pink flowers with a unique and very potent perfume: sweet, fruity, but somehow musky. Unlike most fragrant plants, daphnes can be "difficult." The roots are very susceptible to root rot, and with our wet winters in Southern California, there is a potentially huge mortality risk. The answer is raised beds with **perfect** drainage

(much like proteas), or planting in tubs filled 1/3 up with gravel. Control water in cold weather by planting under eaves (daphnes are good espalier material) or covering root zone with black plastic when it rains. Once you've achieved good drainage and the plant has "taken hold," you're home free. Give sun until early afternoon or **light** shade all day. Use humusy soil with ground fir bark (**not** redwood bark) for added drainage—no peat moss: it's deadly in coastal or near-coastal Southern California because of its water-retentive qualities. Be sparing with water all year—even in summer—and give average doses of balanced fertilizer while maintaining a neutral pH, not easy with our alkaline water. You'll be rewarded with a wonderful perfume and handsome foliage. Although there are many hybrids with stunning, often variegated foliage, the species or *D. odora* 'Aureomarginata' has the best scent.

...because plant perfume is often most potent at night, a garden area devoted to fragrant flowers is often the ideal place for a sunset drink or an after-dinner stroll.

Gardenia jasminoides [*G. augusta*]. From an all-round point of view, gardenias are the queen of fragrant plants. For some reason, I've always had great success with them, but if you keep a few guidelines in mind, you should do well. Understand their origins, the subtropical forests of Yunnan province in China. This means that they're: 1) shallow-rooted and like well-drained, humus-rich soil (camellia soil mix plus leaf mold and some ground fir bark is perfect); 2) they like lots of heat and **humidity**—although mature plants will take considerable cold, as low as 25 degrees or so; 3) like camellias, they prefer constant moisture but no wet feet. I give them Miracid from bloom time to October, then a high-phosphorous fertilizer from February until the buds are a decent size. A dose of iron chelate once or twice a year, given our alkaline water, doesn't hurt either. For container plants, a good leaching just prior to a feeding helps prevent leaf burn from mineral salts.

Plant **high**, again like camellias, and mulch. Unlike most forest plants, gardenias need quite a bit of sun. An exposure open to the east and south, but protected from the western sun is ideal (this is for the sake of the flowers—the plants themselves can't get enough sun).

Also unlike most fragrant plants, gardenias do need regular spraying against insects—particularly mealybugs. Prevent ants by wrapping a bit of sticky tape at the base of branches. For a long bloom season, plant several varieties: the large-flowered 'August Beauty', the slightly smaller 'Mystery' or 'First Love' (the latter, especially, tends to put on a big show for a few weeks, then pfft!), and the low-growing, super floriferous long-season bloomer, 'Veitchii Improved' with 2-inch flowers. A great cut flower once buds are open.

Jasminum polyanthum (Chinese jasmine). Each year, I wait for late winter with almost amorous longing because that's when the Chinese jasmine blooms, filling not only the garden, but my entire house with its strong jasmine-spice scent. A tiny cluster in a vase (if all the buds have fattened and colored up, they'll open indoors) will permeate a room. This moderate-growing vine (after tying the main framework of branches, you'll have to weave the tendrils through the trellis) likes a lot of sun and needs to be pruned lightly after bloom, which, together with a dose of high-phosphorous fertilizer, often promotes a second wave of bloom. A heavy pruning in early August prevents interior dieback. For most of the year, give it a balanced fertilizer and adequate to generous water—more in hot weather. Average but not poor soil will do. Lower branches inevitably go bare, so plant something about 3 feet high in front. *J. sambac*, the jasmine of Hawaii and the tropics, needs lots of heat to thrive. If you live inland and don't get regular frosts, it's the plant for you.

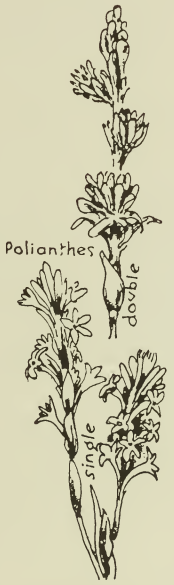
***Lilium* 'Stargazer' and 'Casa Blanca'.** Many varieties of Oriental lilies are highly fragrant, but these two, deep pink and white, respectively, are truly exquisite and widely available. Plant as you would any Oriental lily for late summer blooms. Give full sun and well-drained, slightly acid soil. Be sure to stake well at planting time as they flop over easily.

Michelia figo (banana shrub). One of my favorites.

Michelias are cousins to the magnolias, and have much the same culture. Fortunately, their somewhat leathery leaves are not as prone to marginal leaf burn here as are those of many magnolias. *M. figo* blooms from early March to late April (although it often has sporadic blooms throughout the summer), and has small, pointed, creamy-yellow flowers faintly edged in maroon-purple with a strong scent that I think is more like a combination of apple and banana than just the latter. It will tolerate all day **light** shade or an open eastern exposure, and I give it much the same soil and fertilizing routine as gardenias, although only one dose

of iron chelate per year. If you choose a plant that naturally has the proper shape, it makes a marvelous espalier on an eastern wall. Float several blooms in a tiny bowl to perfume a room. Other michelias include *M. doltsopa*, and the very tender but exquisitely scented *M. champaca* and *M. alba*—both staples in Buddhist floral offerings throughout Southeast Asia and both available from Green Mart, a nursery specializing in Asian plants, located in Orange, California.

Polianthes tuberosa (tuberose). The spicy, musky, intense perfume of the flower spikes of this Mexican tuber is unforgettable. They are easy to grow and will survive in the ground in *Sunset* zones 23 and 24. What they need is a prolonged season of heat to bloom well, so pick the sunniest spot you can find. Plant when ground is already warm in fairly rich, well-drained soil. Don't get the popular double variety 'The Pearl'—its flowers often fail to open. The single variety is far more reliable and more fragrant. Put a stake in each hole at planting time. Give plenty of water and acid fertilizer. For cut flowers, keep the arrangement where it will get direct sun (usually a **no-no** with cut flowers, but this trick works) and you'll thus avoid excessive bud drop. Perhaps for practical considerations, these overwhelmingly fragrant flowers are always used in abundance at funerals in India and Southeast Asia, much as we use white lilies.



Trachelospermum jasminoides (star jasmine). One of the most well-behaved and rewarding (although grossly overused) of fragrant vines, with the added bonus of beautiful, shiny emerald green foliage. It can be trained on a trellis or pegged down as a tallish ground cover. Give it average soil and fertilizer, and somewhat generous water. Prune only to keep it confined, and it will still reward you with intensely sweet-scented white, star-shaped flowers (smelling nothing like jasmine, unless you've never smelled a true jasmine) from late April through June and sometimes beyond. Full sun with, perhaps, late afternoon shade. The single drawback: dead blossoms hang on the vine. They brush off easily, however. If you want to cut a spray for indoors, either sear the cut end quickly in a flame, or cut shortly before guests arrive. □

Fredrik Liljeblad has been a professional writer for over twenty years. He is the author of numerous textbooks on language learning and cookery, as well as a producer of educational videos. He gardens at the western edge of *Sunset* climate zone 23.

Drawings by Roland Stewart Hoyt from his book *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions* [out of print].

(Cover flower)

CARNATIONS

by BARBARA S. JONES

Carnations, *Dianthus caryophyllus*, have been in cultivation for over 2000 years. Their progenitor was a perennial native to southern Europe. There are many different varieties, but the ancestor of the variety we grow here is probably from a French variety developed in 1840. Carnations were imported to the USA in 1858. It has always been a popular flower because it is easy to grow and its spicy fragrant flower has a long cut life. It was very popular in England during the Elizabethan period, and Queen Elizabeth I is said to have had the borders of the walkway leading to her private quarters planted with carnations (gilliflowers) so the dresses of the ladies would touch them and pick up pleasant odors. (During that period people did not wash either themselves or their clothes very often.)

San Diego did not have an official flower until the celebration of the 200th year of the discovery of the area by Cabrillo. Part of the festivities included the naming of a San Diego flower. Since then, our official flower has been the carnation. This was a good choice because it grows outdoors in San Diego and is available most of the year.

Carnations need sunshine and a well drained soil. January is the best month to plant from pony packs, but cuttings can be made from established plants in December. The recommended method of making a cutting is to break off the upper six inches of a stem, place it about 2 inches down into moist sterile sand or perlite. Keep the soil moist but not wet and in a warm but not hot area and in three to four weeks the stems should be rooted and can be planted into the open garden or into containers of planting soil. □

Natural Bonsai Form TRAINING JAPANESE BLACK PINES

BY HIDEO OCHI

[The Japanese black pine, which will grow to 25 feet here and 200 feet in its native habitat, can be kept to 5 or 6 feet. Through training, it can become and be kept bonsai-like, appearing gnarled and weathered beyond its real age.

Ralph Philbrick, retired director of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, says *Pinus thunbergiana* is native to South Korea and may have indigenous populations on Honshu and Kyushu, the Japanese islands directly across from Korea. "People have been planting it in their gardens for so many centuries it confuses the picture," he states.

The following are Hideo Ochi's suggestions to homeowners trying to train this pine—keeping it small and looking old beyond its years. Note: Bonsai refers to a tree or plant in a container. For a **bonsai-style garden** one uses the same bonsai methods of pruning trees. Round pompons of foliage have no place in the natural bonsai style. The bonsai's overall shape is an artistic one reflecting natural balance.]

TECHNIQUES OF PRUNING IN THE BONSAI STYLE

- When starting to work on a new unshaped tree, start by cutting out dead branches and thinning to let in sunlight.

- Your goal is to form natural pads. Think of a fat beaver's tail. Look for potential pads as you thin the tree. It takes one to three years before a tree starts to show good form as the pads develop.

- Prune to form the best overall irregular triangle shape possible.

- Use copper wire for traditional bonsai (container) but for bonsai-style garden trees use bamboo sticks and twine to bend branches to shape the tree.

- In Southern California climate, you can prune almost any time of year, but the best time to prune new growth is April, May, or June.

(above) Japanese black pine shows multiple fat candles. To keep foliage compact, cut off candles almost to branch in spring.

- With a tree that is already shaped, prune the vertical candles of growth at least once a year. **Cut candles to about one-eighth inch long so they will fall off naturally.** The purpose of cutting the candle is tostop the upward growth and to force the tree to grow sideways, like the palm of a hand. Pruning your pine tree this way encourages it to grow from side branches. If possible, prune twice a year for better results in speeding up growth and to maintain its shape.

Montezuma pine, showing "candles" by Betty Newton

Bonsai specimens grown by Norma Garsha in Scripps Ranch, by B. Newton

the garden.

[Hideo Ochi of Chula Vista has spent over twenty-five years shaping up some of San Diego's most attractive trees. His speciality is Japanese black pines (*Pinus thunbergiana* [or *thunbergii*]). Ochi was responsible, in early years, for the care of natural bonsai-style black pines planted in the Wimmer and Yamada-designed landscapes that surround El Cajon City Hall, Council Chambers, and Performing Arts Center.]

- Cut where needles are, not on a bare branch. Don't remove small growth on inside branches. These small new growths are considered "treasures" for the pine tree. They serve to fill in the tree's shape and density.

- Use iron chelates (trace elements mixed with binding agents) as foliage spray or soil drench. This is good to keep the green color in the pine needles.

- Natural bonsai-style trees are usually 4-10 feet tall. They add an artistic focal point of emphasis, which is far more natural than a great urn or fountain in the garden.

Comments above in brackets by Betty Newton, and the following: Many Asian cultures use the uneven-sided triangle in arrangements. Here we see a slightly dissimilar emphasis in the Vietnamese.

ENGLISH	CHINESE	JAPANESE	VIETNAMESE
Heaven	天	天国	Thiên Nhiên (Natur
Man	人	人間	Người (Man)
Earth	地	土地	Đất (Earth)

VIETNAMESE PERSPECTIVE IS DIFFERENT

In the philosophy of Japanese bonsai, Heaven is at the top of the tree. Man is represented by some point in the middle branches, and Earth is at the bottom branch. The tree points form a scalene triangle, one whose sides are all of different lengths. In Hon Non Bo, the points are interpreted very differently. The top is natural [Heaven] (sky, clouds, stars, moon) rather than a mythical heaven; the lower section is Earth (represented by soil, water, and mountains) and Man is between the Natural (heaven) and Earth. In fact, the person building Hon Non Bo or the people walking around looking at Hon Non Bo represent Man.

A mix of trees trained by Hideo Ochi, photo by author

A ROSE BY MANY OTHER NAMES

BY CAROL FRYE GRAHAM

"A ROSE BY ANY other name would smell as sweet," except perhaps, when the rose is actually an apple, apricot, blackberry, cherry, loquat, nectarine, peach, pear, plum, raspberry, or strawberry. Yes, all these delicious fruits, plus the almond, are members of the rose family (Rosaceae). When William Shakespeare was writing *Romeo and Juliet*, I doubt he ever imagined that his words would become the stimulus for a lesson in plant taxonomy. But, this now immortal quotation concerning "a rose" is perfectly suited to reminding us of the luscious, as well as perfumed, offerings of this remarkable plant family. As garden enthusiasts, haven't we looked carefully at the first apple, strawberry, or peach blossom of the season and admired a sight that was at first only vaguely familiar? After further examination, haven't we recognized those five sepals and five petals (even when lacking perfume) as belonging in the rose family?

My edible landscape owes much to this single incredible family. While I live in coastal Encinitas, which doesn't receive enough winter chilling hours (hours between 45°F and 32°F) to grow successfully cherries or pears, my garden has enjoyed most of the other edible members of the rose family. Very careful selection of minimal chill varieties has rewarded me with flavorful harvests and considerable beauty. The 'Desert Delight' nectarine, my earliest bloomer, presents a magnificent display of magenta blooms. Starting in early January, this most welcome sight heralds both the coming of spring and branches bowed low, heavy with brilliant red May nectarines.

An 'August Pride' peach, 'Santa Rosa' plum, 'Gordon' apple, and 'Olallie' blackberry take later turns blooming and fruiting. Each is cherished, first for the beauty it adds to my garden and later for the bounty it supplies to my table. Has any plant family ever done more to nourish the body and soul of California gardeners?

I would like to take this opportunity to invite plant lovers to a FREE guided tour through the SUBTROPICAL FRUIT GARDEN at Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas. While this garden contains few of the edible members of the rose family (since many of these can be seen in residential neighborhoods throughout Southern California), it does offer an impressive mature loquat. This striking tree, bearing exotic fruit, is an evergreen member of the rose family. The tour will be offered FREE on July 7th (first Tuesday of the month) and again on August 4th (first Tuesday of the month) starting at 10:30AM on both days, weather permitting. Recommend meeting at the Visitors' Center.

Started by volunteers in 1973, the SUBTROPICAL FRUIT GARDEN is graced with several mature specimens. In 1997, the garden was enhanced with a generous donation of both trees and labor from the California Rare Fruit Growers (an amateur fruit-growing nonprofit educational society). With the addition of several signs, the garden celebrated a grand reopening in August 1997. If you have not visited the fruit garden recently or have never had a guided tour through this garden, please join us on July 7th or August 4th. □

[The loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*) may be either a small tree or a large bush. *Sunset Western Garden Book* says that many trees sold are seedlings, which make good ornamental plants but have unpredictable fruit quality. If you definately want fruit, you are advised to purchase a grafted variety.]

Drawing from "Fruit Facts," published by California Rare Fruit Growers, Inc. Fullerton Arboretum, CSUF, Fullerton CA 92834-6850.

Carol Frye Graham is a UCCE Master Gardener and member of California Rare Fruit Growers. She was recently recognized as a County Volunteer of the Year for her service to the Farm and Home Advisor Office.

UNTAMED MONKEY FLOWERS, RAMPAGING SNAPDRAGONS, AND THE BUCKEYE BUTTERFLY©

by Pat Pawlowski

NOW THAT IT'S SUMMER, it's time to take stock of the floral beasties in your backyard. If you are lucky enough to have monkey flowers, snapdragons, toadflax or owl's clover in your plant zoo, you also may have a *Junonia coenia [Precis coenia],* buckeye butterfly, flitting about.

These days, it's pretty well known that certain plants will attract certain butterflies to your yard.

Although adult butterflies of most species enjoy sipping nectar from a large variety of flowering plants, the caterpillars of each species of butterfly are very picky about the plants on which they feed. To understand, we have to delve into the butterfly's personal life, like it or not (and, according to media trends, lots of us like it).

There are four stages in a butterfly's life: The egg, the caterpillar, the chrysalis, and the adult.

The female adult buckeye may lay her tiny, squatty, dark green eggs on plants in the figwort family, some of which are mentioned above, besides several in the plantain family. These are known as the host plants.

When the buckeye caterpillar—a fashionably spiny, dark individual with touches of yellow and cream—emerges from the egg, it will munch on the leaves of its host plant. In a few weeks, it will form a chrysalis. Then the miracle of metamorphosis begins: soon emerging from the chrysalis will be a gorgeous buckeye butterfly, about two inches wide with large multicolored eyespots on each brown wing.

PATROLLING FOR PASSION

Just as the caterpillar's main function was to eat, the adult's major job is to make *amor.*

To achieve this enviable state, the buckeye male will patrol a site, flying back and forth, searching for females. Happily for the butterfly watcher, the buckeye will sometimes perch on bare earth or on the limb of a tree. Some males, perhaps nearsighted, will fly after any insect that buzzes by. Eventually, if the gods are munificent, a receptive female buckeye will happen by, and mating will occur.

PLANTINGS FOR PASSION

The female is naturally drawn to areas containing host plants on which she can lay eggs. Both sexes need flower nectar to sustain them. Therefore, the bountiful, buckeye butterfly garden owner will provide the following enticements: nectar plants for the adults; host plants for the caterpillars; open, sunny areas ideal for patrolling; mud puddles for puddling; and a safe, pesticide-free environment.

Butterfly gardening can be a challenge to those green-thumbers who shudder to see hole-dappled leaves or less-than-perfect plants. However, the rewards are evident: A much more interesting landscape, with surprises galore. You never know who will show up next (especially if you are trying to attract more than one butterfly species, each with its own specific group of host plants, to your yard).

You can always position your host plants toward the back, and the nectar plants toward the front (remember: adult butterflies only sip nectar; they don't eat leaves).

TOADFLAX

Linaria spuria *Linaria vulgaris*

A HERD OF HOST PLANTS

To attract egg-laying females, choose from the following list of buckeye host plants:

Dwarf or Dot-Seed Plantain (*Plantago erecta*) -

A native plant, frequently in open areas.

English Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) - A familiar weed, originally from Europe, often found in—Horrors!—lawns. However, it's fairly good-looking, and provides visual diversity in those otherwise boring carpets of green.

Monkey flowers (*Mimulus* spp.) - Many kinds. Some are shrubby perennials, and one is a short-lived perennial that is treated as an annual. Flowers range from creams to peaches to yellows to oranges to reds. Many are drought tolerant, and will bloom from early spring to late summer. From the Latin *mimus* (a mimic). Flowers are said to resemble a monkey's face; however, I fail to see how.

Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum*) - From the Greek *anti* (like) and *rhis* (a snout). From the appearance of the flower. Pinching the flower at its "jaw," will make it open like the mouth of a dragon (without the flames, I hope). Wonderful cut flowers, they need sun and water.

Owl's Clover (*Orthocarpus purpurascens*) - A tiny, very pretty native annual with rosy-purple, clover-like flower heads.

Toadflax (*Linaria* spp.) - One native species. Several varieties of toadflax are from Europe, where it had a good medical reputation for treating jaundice and conjunctivitis; boiled in milk it made an excellent fly poison.

A NEST OF NECTAR PLANTS

Although there is a large group of nectar-bearing flowers that attract buckeyes, those purported to be favorites include:

Aster (*Aster*) - Many kinds, lots of colors. Many make wonderful cut flowers. Need sun and water.

Coreopsis (*Coreopsis*) - Beloved by many nectar-noshers. Warm colors; easy to grow. Once established, drought tolerant.

Buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.) - Drought- tolerant; native species, *E. fasiculatum*, also a host plant for several other butterfly species.

Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) - A plant that should be in every garden; host plant for monarchs, and a good nectar plant for many species. Easy to grow. Some varieties need more water than others. Parachute-like seed heads are fun to watch as they float away to sow themselves elsewhere.

Butterfly bush (*Buddleia* spp.) - One of the best butterfly-attracting plants. Flowers come in spikes in pretty shades of purple, pink, and white. Need sun and water. Plant several varieties to have blooms throughout spring, summer and fall.

GROW A LITTLE WILD

Dare to be different; invite butterflies into your yard by providing food, sunshine, a good muddy watering hole, and maybe even a few weeds.

However, at times, you may need to emulate Frank Buck (Remember him?—the famous lion tamer), cracking and whipping your garden hose here and there, sprinkling those wild blooms into damp submission. Make that toadflax behave! Don't let that *Mimulus* make a monkey out of you! Keep that snapdragon under control!

Make sure you take very good care of your entire plant menagerie, so that you can include a real animal, that bodacious buckeye, in your personal game preserve. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated

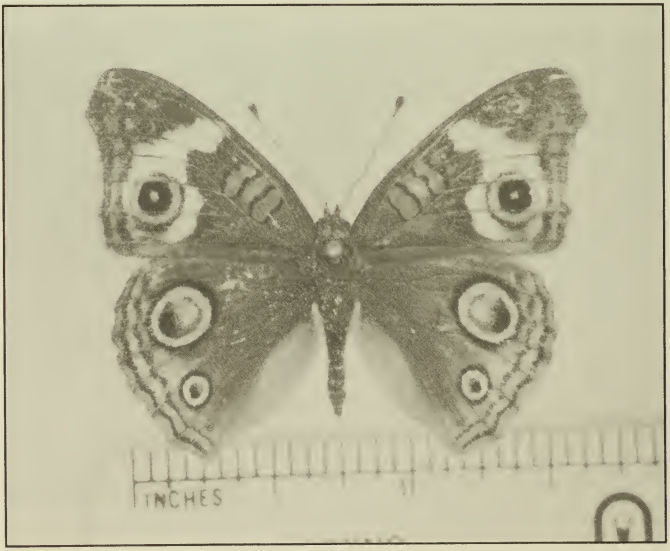


Photo by Bill Howell (left)
Buckeye butterfly

by ROBERT HORWITZ

YOUR TRAVELING GARDENER IN GLASGOW

ONE OF THE JOYS of wandering around the British Isles is that seemingly out of nowhere is a lovely garden in serene surroundings near to a museum or other public building. My wife and I came across such a garden in a place called Bellahouston Park on the outskirts of the newer parts of Glasgow, Scotland. The garden was adjacent to the Art House Museum, which is part of the Glasgow School of Art. The buildings were inspired by the drawings of the famous Scottish architect, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Entering the garden through a small brick archway presented us with an open view of a large expanse of the most exquisite green grass I have ever seen. It was without a blemish and was mowed fairly short. In the center of this grass was a star shaped bedding arrangement consisting of dusty millers and red geraniums. Surrounding the garden were red brick walls about twelve feet high capped with tan sandstone that was mostly hidden by trees that were just beginning to turn color.

Bellahouston Park at Glasgow School of Art

Down along the center gravel walk of the garden were stands of trial sweet peas on tall stakes in profuse bloom. The aroma was heavenly. There must have been over one hundred of these plants all about the same size and few of the same color.

There were several plantings of geraniums of various colors set off by low-growing impatiens whose flowers did not clash with the gaudy geranium blooms. Following along other walks in the garden, one came across, surprisingly enough, a vegetable garden with mature carrots and onions as well as a large variety of herbs. We had the garden to ourselves for a while and sat peacefully in the autumn Scottish sun and absorbed the calm serenity of the garden.

The adjacent museum is called a house for an art lover. There was a pleasant display of art, mostly from the School of Art, and examples of Mackintosh style furniture and drawings. They billed the museum as a showplace for the Glasgow School of Art. And to top all this off, there was a pleasant little cafe where one could get lunch or snack and look out over the grounds of the museum, populated by well-dressed business men and women.□

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens on Point Loma.

YOUR TRAVELING GARDENER GOES TO THE SCOTTISH ISLE OF BUTE

ON A RECENT TRIP to Scotland to visit the family and background of my wife's mother in Glasgow, we decided that a visit to the resort town of Rothesay, where my mother-in-law used to vacation during the summer, was in order. My purpose was to visit Mount Stuart House and gardens and to enjoy the long walks on the grounds and through the house itself.

We took the train from Glasgow to Waymyss Bay, boarded a ferry and landed a half hour later at Rothesay, only to be greeted on the dock by a bagpiper all dressed out in kilts. On to a bus and a ten minute ride to the entrance of the Stuart House ground. The sun was shining and it was a glorious day.

The grounds cover 300 hundred acres, including woods, a kitchen garden, several formal gardens and a huge greenhouse. The greenhouse was so hot and humid that my glasses steamed up and my pants lost their crease. We walked from the reception center through the kitchen garden which could feed 500 people and contained all of the vegetables that one would expect, including brussels sprouts and cabbage. There were fruit trees such as plums and damsons, apples, pears, and cherries. Many berry plants were in the ground and espaliered along walls such as strawberries, gooseberries, and even black currants. The herb plantings included the standard culinary ones and an interesting assortment of medicinal herbs as well.

The main house was started in 1718 and over the years has grown to an impressive structure that is very ornate as most castles are with immense main staircases, large overdecorated rooms, small bedrooms with beds that seemed very short and high and even toilets of a sort. Nobody lives there now as it is part of the British Trust. I was very impressed with the Chapel which contained a magnificent functioning pipe organ.

Because of the size and protection of the grounds, there is a considerable variety of wild life and in the meadows were sheep and a few goats. They have a conservation program for conifers in an area they call the Pinetum. They have many conifers from America including mountain hemlock, Douglas fir, noble fir, western hemlock, giant sequoia, western red cedar, and nootka cypress.

This description is just the beginning of what all is there. One day is really not enough, and some day we will go back to see some of the things that we missed. There was a large staff of guides and experts available for information, and even a pleasant cafe where I could and did have Scottish potatoes stuffed with a delectable assortment of high cholesterol ingredients!□

Stuart House Castle Towers

Now Is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK that plants are not crowded.
TO KEEP violets well groomed.
TO PLACE pans of wet pebbles among plants to increase humidity.
TO USE a fan to circulate the air to prevent mildew.
TO USE cool light tubes if violets are under lights. If using natural lighting, place plants farther away from source.

BEGONIAS
Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REPOT plants if needed — step up to next size container.
TO MAKE cuttings when trimming or pruning.
TO GROOM and inspect plants throughout growing season.
TO CHECK for mildew — spray at once for control.
TO CHECK for snails, slugs, and fungus.
TO POT rooted cuttings and leaves.
TO CONTINUE feeding.
TO REMOVE old flowers from tuberous type by snapping off the blossoms not the stems.
TO FEED tuberous plants when flower buds appear. Feed one tablespoon High-Bloom and one tablespoon of fish emulsion to one gallon of water.

BONSAI
San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER, water, water — but not overwater. During the hot months it is best to water early in the day. Some bonsai may need two or three waterings on hot, dry days.
TO TURN some trees for even to sun exposure.
TO PROTECT some plants by moving into a shaded area out of direct sun.
TO CHECK for insects and pests — spray with a diluted spray. (Be careful with elm trees, which usually do not need spraying.)
TO MIST or spray foliage of certain bonsai, those which are humidity-loving, in the evening or early morning.
TO WAIT until September or October to transplant bonsai.
TO REMOVE excess blossoms from trees to save their strength for next year. Defoliate some of the deciduous varieties in July — not later.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PROTECT plants from burning during the hot weather by placing them under lath, shadecloth, clear fiberglass, or trees.
TO INCREASE the frequency of water according to the temperature, but do not allow the soil to become soggy.
TO CONTINUE to fertilize once a month during summer — using water soluble, high acid fertilizer. Use one-half of strength recommended on label.
TO REMEMBER to water plants one day before fertilizing.
TO CUT off shoots (pups) to make new plants while weather is warm. Remove when they are ⅓ or ½ the size of the mother plant.
TO KEEP plants clean by cutting off spent blooms and dead leaves.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH plants during hot weather. If they dry out too much they can shrivel and burn in the sun. Protect delicate specimens from the sun with screen.
TO WATER plants carefully. Some like to dry between waterings, others can take it wetter. Use less on the plants that are dormant.
TO FERTILIZE growing plants but do not overfeed. A good rule of thumb is ½ strength every other watering.

TO WATCH plants for pests — especially snails. Treat immediately but be careful with insecticides.
TO CHECK for plants that need repotting and do so.
TO ENJOY your collection — take a little time to look at your plants.

CAMELLIAS
Les Baskerville

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CONTINUE to feed cottonseed meal at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon per plant, April 1 - June 1 and August 1.
TO WATCH for loopers and aphids and spray with Malathion when necessary.
TO MULCH the area around the plants and do not let them completely dry out. New growth is about 90% water and if allowed to dry out will shrivel and die. Older growth may droop but will come back when watered.

DAHLIAS
Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP old blossoms cut back to first of leaves from the main stalk to prolong blooming.
TO DISBUD to encourage better blooms.
TO TIE canes to prevent plants breaking — use a loop for each cane.
TO CONTINUE regular watering program.
TO SPRAY for insects and mildew; control slugs and snails.
TO FEED with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.
TO CUT blossoms in late afternoon or early morning and place immediately in water.

EPIPHYLLUMS
San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH moisture — spray or mist is beneficial during hot dry weather. Spray during evening hours or early morning.
TO REPOT plants that are rootbound.
TO TAKE new cuttings.
TO KEEP plants out of full summer sun; they need filtered sunlight and free air movement.
TO REMOVE spent blooms and unwanted "apples" to conserve the plant's vitality.
TO PLANT new cuttings during the warm weather allowing new growth to become established during the growing season.
TO WATER hybrids during the hot summer months, spray occasionally or mist. Do not allow soil to dry out completely.
TO CONTINUE pest and disease prevention using products according to the manufacturers' directions.
TO FERTILIZE for new growth. Use 10-10-15 strength at this time.

FERNS
San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale; keep snails, pill bugs, and slugs under control.
TO FERTILIZE plants regularly with a high nitrogen fertilizer. They are in their growing period.
TO WATER and maintain humidity by keeping the surrounding areas damp.
TO TRIM dead fronds.
TO PLANT fern spores.
TO PROTECT from the hot sun.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MONITOR soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry. Periodically apply enough water to leach salts below plant roots (3-4 feet deep).
TO SUPPORT limbs that have a heavy fruit load to prevent breakage.
TO BEGIN harvesting fruit as soon as it is ripe.
TO REMOVE fruit that is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other insect scavengers.
TO PRUNE out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince, and loquat. Make cuts at least 12 inches below (if possible) infected tissue and disinfect pruning shears between cuts.
TO KEEP ants off trees and periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale, and other insects.
TO INSPECT new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.
TO PRUNE out blackberry and raspberry canes that have borne fruit.

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FUCHSIAS
San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY to control insects. Orthene will control most pests: aphids, leafhoppers, caterpillars, leaf miners, thrips, and whitefly. Use manufacturers' instructions.

TO SNIP off runners for shape and new growth.

TO PRUNE lightly to encourage more fall blooms.

TO KEEP foliage misted. Spray only in the shade or early evening.

TO AVOID overwatering; keep damp, not wet.

TO FERTILIZE regularly with high phosphorus for buds and bloom.

TO REMOVE spent blooms and seed pods to encourage more and larger blooms.

Mesembryanthemum crystallinum,
ice plant (see page 121)

GERANIUMS (PELARGONIUMS)
Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become relatively dry. Do this before the heat of the day. Each watering should moisten the entire soil ball. Excess water should drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

TO CONTINUE feeding a soluble, balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use at less than the recommended strength as often as needed to keep plants from developing nutritional deficiencies. Water and feed before the heat of the day. Do not feed if plants have become too dry.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease prevention, using products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO GROOM plants, removing discolored leaves and faded flowers. The old bloom stalks on regals, scenteds, and similar types should be cut away with a sharp blade.

TO TAKE cuttings from zonals and ivies, if desired. Each cutting should have a healthy growing tip. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium.

TO PROTECT cuttings and tender plants from the sun if temperatures are high. Move to a sheltered spot or create overhead shade. Keep summer dormant plants dry and away from excessive heat.

TO CONTINUE to rotate pots on a regular basis in order to keep plants well shaped.

HERBS
John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE gourmet meals with fresh basil and tomatoes.

TO DRY bundles of oregano, thyme, sage, tarragon, lemon grass, rosemary, lemon balm, gotu kola, stevia, lavender, and raspberry leaf. Hang herbs in a dry, ventilated area that is protected from direct sun.

TO PRUNE back plants that are taking over pathways or smothering other plants.

TO WATER wisely. Comfrey is a great water gauge. When its leaves droop, it is time to give it and other water loving plants, like the mints, a good deep watering. Be careful not to over water your lavender, thyme, aloe, sage, rosemary, fremontodendron, and other damp-sensitive herbs.

TO MAKE herbal sun tea and to add a sprig of fresh mint when serving.

TO FREEZE borage flowers in ice cubes (pinch off sepals) for elegant cool drinks.

TO ENJOY the long days of summer in your herb garden.

IRIS
Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPADE and work humus into the soil to revitalize before planting rhizomes.

TO FEED plants left in the ground with a high nitrogen fertilizer — this one time only.

TO DIVIDE and replant tall bearded iris, taking only the new rhizomes attached to the outer edges of the mother clump. Dust ends of cut rhizomes with soil sulfur.

TO KEEP iris beds clean and free of old fans and

weeds.

TO WATCH for aphids; use a light insecticide or a systemic.

TO CUT off spuria iris foliage, but do not dig until September.

NATIVE PLANTS
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAKE sure we have the weeds pulled before they go to seed. With our more than normal rainfall, we can expect more weeds than normal, too!

TO PLAN for fall planting. While your garden is in bloom, notice the plants that need replacing and the gaps that need filled. Remember that the fall is the best time to plant the natives, but the earlier you do your planning, the easier the task of obtaining the plants you want for fall planting.

TO REMEMBER that there are a number of plant sales held in October and November. Pick your favorite and let those in charge know what you would like. It helps them make better choices and you can be assured that your personal favorites will be available. California Native Plant Society and Lake Hodges Native Plant Club are two that have fall sales.

TO USE use snail bait around shade-loving natives as the snails will be abundant after our rainy winter and spring. Be on the lookout for their slimy trails all over your garden.

ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP an eye out for infestations of scale and spider mite.

TO USE the proper pesticide and keep in mind that at this time of year with low humidity and warm weather, there are continuous hatches of insects.

TO CHECK all potting mixes for good drainage. We do not want rotting potting mixes.

TO MIST and spray on hot, dry days.

TO CHECK new seedlings and community pots. Do not let them dry out or get sunburned. Dry air caused by winds from the interior will desiccate small plants.

TO PLANT any keikis (offshoots) from *Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis, Vanda, Ascocenda,* etc., when roots are about two inches long.

TO CHECK the root tips of growing *Phalaenopsis* and other vandaceous plants (air roots). If the tip is green and elongated, the water and humidity are about right. If the tips are white, that indicates more water is needed or more humidity is required. This often applies to other genera also.

TO HAVE most monopodial [a growth habit in which new leaves develop from the same meristem or growing point] orchids dry by nightfall, so water will not sit in the leaf axil.

ROSES
Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER at least twice a week, filling each basin with water twice each watering to make sure the water is penetrating into the root zone at least one foot below the surface. Check your watering system to be certain it is meeting the needs of your bushes.

TO WASH off foliage in early morning with strong spray of water to control mites and keep leaves clean.

TO MAINTAIN beds with organic mulch to keep soil cool and friable. Some mulching materials deplete the nitrogen supply in the soil and you may wish to compensate by adding some form of nitrogen at this time.

TO OBSERVE the fantastic response your established plants have shown to the abundant rainfall. The soil has been cleansed of the accumulated salts and a soil test will probably show your ground is now on the acid side. The basal growth, particularly on our older bushes have been a sure sign roses love water. Protect these news basals by removing unnecessary spurs and immature cross branches.

TO PRUNE lightly in early August to encourage new growth that will produce blooms into late November. Remove growth of stems that are smaller than pencil-size to a five leaflet leaf. Clean up all beds.

TO APPLY gypsum (calcium sulfate), an inorganic soil amendment. It does not change the pH, but added to alkaline soil it reacts with the insoluble sodium compounds to form sodium sulfate, which is soluble and can be leached out by HEAVY penetration. You MUST WATER, WATER. Sprinkle gypsum over entire bed and lightly rake in before flooding.

TO FOLLOW UP with a cup of alfalfa meal or pellets, a great root growth stimulant (available at most feed stores). Continue with your regular feeding program. Roses are heavy feeders and enjoy a change of diet.

TO REEVALUATE your bushes continually for possible replacement or removal. If you have plants that are nonproducing, it is an excellent time to plan for their replacement. When you remove the plant, check it over to note the possibility of root gall, a white porous growth (continued on page 127)

AQUARIUM PLANTS: DROWNING IN ASSUMPTIONS

by GERALD D. STEWART

AS TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS, we have a long history of growing plants with roots in the dirt and leaves in the air. Aquatic gardening is different in more ways than just being under water. Gardening with terrestrial plants is full of assumptions that we often use in aquatic situations, causing less than optimum results. All the challenges created by these assumptions are easily overcome.

We assume the almost infinitely complex balancing act of the environment. In aquatic gardening, water volume defines the parameters: Animal wastes and decomposing plant material have a greater impact in a limited system. Water quality is critical. Water changes of 10% to 50% done weekly to monthly depending upon fish load are critical to maintaining good water quality. Amount and frequency can be determined by using test kits found at all full service tropical fish/aquarium retailers. A workable pH range for most easily available aquatic plants is 6.5 to 7.2.

We assume the presence of CO_2 in the air and micronutrients in the soil. Carbon dioxide (CO_2) is often the limiting factor in aquatic gardening because a closed system of water doesn't necessarily have sufficient amounts for additional carbon-based plant growth. Introduction of CO_2 is important. An inexpensive method of CO_2 fertilization is to fill a two-liter soda bottle to its neck with water which includes one cup of sugar and one-half teaspoon of yeast. Drill a hole in the cap and fasten in place [with silicone, for example] an airline that can be run into the filter. Replace the solution when bubbles stop appearing. Bubble-run filtration systems and water surface movement remove CO_2 from water and should be avoided. Gravel-based aquatic situations don't offer anything to "hold" micronutrients. It is important to fertilize regularly with micronutrients. Many micronutrient formulations are available at pet stores.

We assume the need for three macronutrients. In a well-stocked and established aquarium the bulk of the nitrogen needed will be supplied in fish wastes. Where there are few fish, and consequently little food added to the system, addition of nitrogen and potash may be needed. The addition of phosphorus at macronutrient levels to an aquarium may prompt algae bloom. One often overlooked source of phosphorus is the water added to the aquarium. If you use local tap water, call the water district and find out how much phosphorus is in it. Distilled, reverse osmosis, or deionized water may be needed to substitute for or dilute tap water.

Limnophila sp.

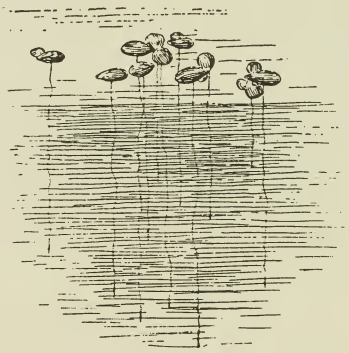
We assume a full spectrum light source from the sun. Different types of light bulbs provide varying ranges of the spectrum. Sunlit aquariums may experience tremendous algae growth in response to light intensity. A good aquarium retailer should be able to point out lights that provide the part of the spectrum needed by plants with sufficient intensity to sustain growth. Most commonly available aquarium plants come from near the equator: In nature they receive twelve hours of sun a day. In an aquarium they need the same duration. More intensity can't be used to reduce duration.

We assume the plants we buy have been produced in the same environmental conditions they'll be placed in. Commercial production of aquatic plants doesn't necessarily parallel aquarium growing conditions. Before you buy what looks good to your eye, find out if it is a true aquatic plant, a bog plant that can take submersion, or a house plant that will survive for awhile under water before deteriorating. Only true aquatics will have had to have been produced in an aquarium-like setting, which helps to assure a minimum amount of transplant shock.

We assume a large amount of foliage relative to plant-consuming or damaging animals. In an aquarium, there is a shift toward more animals relative to available foliage. One plant-eating fish can destroy plants overnight. Qualified assistance when purchasing fish is important. It's also important to keep in mind when you create an environment that promotes plant growth that it also will promote the growth of aquatic weeds: algae. Be sure to include algae-eaters in your "fish mix."

IN A NUTSHELL, HERE'S WHAT TO DO: make regular water changes and check water chemistry on a regular basis; fertilize with carbon dioxide and micronutrients; monitor the amount of phosphorus that is added to your aquatic system; provide a minimum of twelve hours of light per day in a range approximating daylight; avoid air bubbles; use true aquatic plants; avoid fish known to eat plants; and include algae-eating fish. Details will vary with each set-up and can be tackled as challenges arise, but use of these basics will get you most of the way to a fabulous aquascape.□

Cabomba caroliniana, fanwort



Lemna minor, duckweed

[Fanwort is typically pond-grown and prefers cooler temperatures than that in many aquariums. Duckweed can rapidly cover an aquarium surface, reducing light levels. These plants could be used in cool aquariums with goldfish, which would eat and control the duckweed.]

Gerald D. Stewart, proprietor of New Leaf Nurseries in Vista, is known for geraniums and other terrestrial plants. The article above highlights what he had to learn after deciding to grow aquarium plants to sell at the nursery. He invites you all to come and see how well he grows algae!

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A VISIT WITH ROSEMARY VEREY

by MARGE HOWARD-JONES

LONDON IN MAY MEANS masses of tulips under flowering cherry trees with fluffy blossoms as big as your hand. The scene is usually heightened by the soft light of overcast skies, which is what we had the morning we left the city for the Cotswolds in the west. Our destination was Barnsley House and its garden, the fabled home of one of England's most revered *grandes dames* of gardeners, Rosemary Verey.

"We" were about twenty gardening pilgrims who, under the leadership of the American Horticultural Society, had just spent ten days exploring the gardens and wildflowers of Greece and Turkey. Our guide and mentor through that adventure was Dr. Alfred Evans, recently retired as a curator at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. More that just a fount of knowledge about all things horticultural, Alfred was excellent company and always eager to share his expertise with us. As we crossed an intersection that seemed to divide visibly the city from the suburbs, he feelingly held forth on England's system of "green belts" and its heritage of open countryside.

Barnsley House sits on a slight rise and is approached by a long driveway that takes public visitors to a small parking lot next to Mrs. Verey's greenhouse. We noticed pots of pelargoniums blooming in the hothouse as we passed through on our way to the lawn, where Mrs. Verey, a slight, white-haired woman wearing a deep blue skirt and sweater, awaited us. Her much photographed herb garden was to her left, looking not quite in its prime, and she readily acknowledged that constantly maintaining it in picture-perfect condition was nearly impossible.

The perennial borders framing the main lawn were densely planted with an obvious eye to color, form, and texture. Behind them were great old trees—lime, chestnuts, and beeches that were there when her husband's parents came to live at Barnsley House in 1932. I was amazed at the complexity of the garden's design, with shrubs, perennials, and annuals mixed for maximum effect; one of my photos shows tall red 'Mariette' tulips, with pointed petals, sprinkled with white narcissus throughout the main beds. One corner of the garden gives way to a meadow that spreads beneath the old trees and is covered with field flowers of every hue.

Two of the main features of the garden are the Temple and the Frog Fountain, magnificent structures that truly express the expansive imaginations of the garden's creators. The Temple, a classic facade in stone of a pediment supported by columns, was a gift of Mrs. Verey's late husband, David, who sited it near a 1770 wall that now surrounds it on three sides. Seen from a distance, at the end of two parallel walkways, the Temple reveals itself gradually, giving the viewer a sense of personal discovery and mystery. Facing it at the other end of the walkways is the Frog Fountain, with four fat stone frogs shooting water at a massive stone slab. It is designed to provide reflection, sound and movement, Mrs. Verey's required essentials for a garden water feature.

Beyond that point is a sheep meadow, but a quick turn to the left brought us to the most amazing part of the garden, the Potager, an intricate arrangement of flowers, fruit trees and vegetables, linked by elaborately laid out paths. It was like an Oriental carpet, so rich in detail and color. One of the most amazing aspects was the apple trees that were not only espaliered to form one wall of the garden, but also trained to join each other in a lacy pattern of arches. Beneath them, broccoli grew next to tulips, poppies popped up amid roses and beanstalks, and each small parterre was defined by a low hedge of boxwood or rosemary.

It was very hard to pry ourselves away from this garden fantasy come to life, but, of course, we had to cruise the small shop that has been set up in a room just off the entry courtyard. It featured many small items with a garden theme, as well as a few samples of the handsome garden furniture designed by Mrs. Verey's son, Charles. He and his family now live in Barnsley House while his mother lives in a smaller home also on the property.

It was time for us to go to lunch but our hostess was again greeting new visitors to her aesthetic and horticultural triumph. Although the garden is obviously a business for Rosemary Verey, it clearly is also a vehicle for her strong artistic bent and her love of nature. □

[Editor's note: *Rosemary Verey's Making of a Garden*, published by Henry Holt and Company was reviewed in the July—August, 1996 issue of California Garden.]

Marge Howard-Jones is a former docent at Quail Botanical Garden, reviews books for this magazine, and has written a history of Carlsbad.

SUNDIALS

by BARBARA S. JONES

BECAUSE SAN DIEGANS HAVE beautiful flowers and lush greenery year round, ornaments are not relied upon to give interest to gardens. A statue tucked into a garden corner can enhance a pleasant outdoor living space, but the usual garden point of interest is a fountain or pool.

In recent years sundials have become popular for use in small open spaces. They are available at garden centers and gift shops and range from simple forms to gorgeous and elaborate creations. If you think you might be interested in obtaining one, now is a good time to investigate, choose a sundial and base, and make preparations to "install" it. Only on April 16th, June 15th, September 1st, and December 25th can they be installed with relative accuracy using North American standard time. To be exactly accurate a sundial must be designed for the longitude and latitude where it is to be located, and the only days it will be precise is on the same four days.

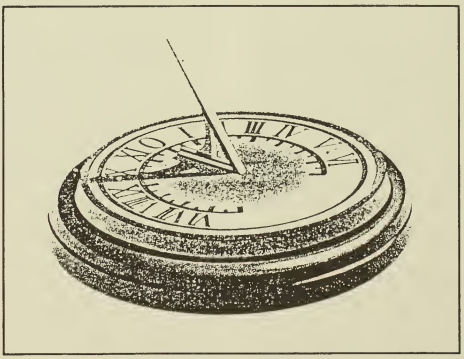
ACCURATE DATES FOR SUNDIAL SET UP

April 16th
June 15th
September 1st
December 25th

A sundial is an instrument that marks the passage of time by means of a shadow cast on a marked dial by the sun striking the gnomon. The most common form is the flat (horizontal) circular plate with marked hours and a triangular gnomon. The gnomons are often beautifully formed and in fascinating shapes.

Historically it is believed that sundials have been in use since 1500 BC. In the 16th Century the designing of sundials was of particular interest because a better understanding of mathematics made precise calculations possible. They were made in every size and shape. There were small pocket sized ones and others were mounted on gimbals for use at sea. There were vertical forms mounted on walls of castles, churches, and public buildings. Many still remain. In Europe and England there are many historic pillar sundials in town squares where four dials are placed on each side facing a cardinal point of the compass. In the 17th Century the noon cannon became popular. This was a miniature cannon mounted on a dial, fitted with a lens (burning glass) that focused the rays of the noon sun on the touchhole of the cannon, which was primed with black powder. Noon was announced with a large boom.

A more elaborate sundial is the armillary sphere, a series of solid rings originally used as an astronomical model. The inner ring is the dial plate and represents the equator. A thin rod, usually an arrow, lies parallel to the earth's axis and is the gnomon. Another form, the equatorial sundial, is a streamlined version of the armillary sphere. Both the armillary and equatorial forms are available locally.



HOW TO SET UP A HORIZONTAL SUNDIAL

(1) Level the base. (If you don't have a level use a glass measuring cup filled with water to the 1 cup mark.)
(2) Place the dial with attached gnomon on the level base.
(3) At noon, Standard Time, rotate the dial until the shadow cast by the gnomon points due north.
(4) Exactly at noon turn the dial until the shadow points to noon on the dial. Attach the sundial to the base in this position. □

THE KATE SESSIONS I REMEMBER

by MARGARET TIPTON WHEATLY

"GOOD MORNING, CHILD,"—in a soft New England accent, was my invariable greeting from a stooped, gently smiling little old lady who often met me at the entrance of the Pacific Beach Nursery with trowel and perhaps some treasured seedling in very grubby hands—gloves were for "sissy" gardeners.

Although I was not still a child, the expanse of years that separated an aspiring youthful apprentice and the octogenarian Kate O. Sessions was a half century. One of my pleasures was to drive her ancient car, which was most often burdened with plants inside and out; a bale of peat moss or bean straw tied onto a rack that completely hid the spare tire. I often thought, "What would we do if we got a flat?" but the good fairy or guardian saint of innocent "girls" watched over us. Her advice was sound: never head into an entry or driveway—always put the tail in, then you are ready to leave.

Some of her philosophies are well known, like: don't plant a five dollar plant in a fifty cent hole. A prize one I remember was to an elegantly dressed gentleman who came to the nursery one day and described his very dour planting prospects for a tree. Miss Sessions told him only a pepper tree would survive those conditions. He almost exploded and told her what he thought of that choice, whereupon she looked her pleasantest and smiled—which would melt most people—and replied, "Well you shave everyday, don't you?" He took a pepper tree with him, but we never learned its fate.

Nothing was wasted. Opened envelopes were used for scratch paper. Even today, after many intervening years, I treasure every one that comes to us to organize my pencil notes upon. However, I have NOT yet turned them inside-out and reused them for mailing. That bit of frugality must have been a holdover from her New England parents.

She did not often lay aside her teacher-pupil kindly attitude, but one day she came back to the nursery and found me looking for a plant in *Bailey*, whereupon she slammed the book shut and said, "You don't know enough to find a plant." I was crushed. I think that was the first time she had witnessed tears, at least for years, but her reserve forbad an apology.

During my all-too-brief years association with KOS, she was aware of my knowledge at least twice. One year, she had put off ordering aloe and other succulent seeds from the Botanical Garden in South Africa, and we were about to miss the planting season. I suggested that she send the order by air mail, which was then quite new. She was delighted and amazed that for twenty-five cents she could send the order and it would arrive in a very few days, instead of perhaps a month or longer by ship. She was skeptical though and insisted on personally mailing it herself even though it meant time out from the nursery. Another time was when the Horticultural Editor of *American Home*, Mr. E. L. D. Seymore, for whom I had done a few pieces, came to San Diego to see ME. That she almost never got over! My greatest pleasure was to introduce them and take them to see strange, to an Easterner, plants and landscaping projects. Presidio Park was thriving under her guidance.

Before the days gardeners learned that jeans were perfect for gardening, I wore culottes. KOS was fascinated by my double skirts and resolved to have a dress suit made by her little dressmaker with bifurcated skirt to wear to her annual lecture before the Ebell Club in Los Angeles. We ordered homespun wool from Biltmore Industries, Asheville, North Carolina. My husband was wearing suits tailored from their cloth, and she was overwhelmed by its wearing quality, which pleased her frugality.

By this time, her hearing was impaired. On this occasion at the Ebell Club, she was to share the program with someone. A thing that had never happened before—partly because the payment for a lecture was for

those days quite substantial. The other speaker was apparently a humorist, because as she related the maddening incident to us later, he kept the women in stitches for longer than she cared to wait, and being at the far end of the room from him could not hear a word he was saying. So she picked up her traditional basket of choice plant parts and stalked out of the room.

Those of us who drove her car were in constant fear of getting a traffic ticket for double parking. It happened to me. She wanted to go into a bookstore on Fourth Street for just a moment to say "Hello" to an old friend. When she returned, a cop was writing out a ticket. "What is that man doing?" she asked me. "He is giving us a ticket for double parking," was my faint reply. Well, she had lived in San diego for perhaps half a century and was not about to pay a fine for a simple little thing like double parking. In the unloading zone two cars ahead, a truck had its tail into the curb. "Why not give that fellow a ticket? He sticks out farther than my car." The officer paid no heed to her, finished writing out the summons and handed it to her to sign.

That meant we next went to the traffic court. Miss Sessions marched right in to the judge and found that worthy gentleman sitting in his swivel chair, feet on desk, smoking a big black cigar. At the sight, she started giving him a lecture on the terrible hazards of smoking and went on at such a breath-taking speed that she finally had to pause. The judge asked, "What brings you here?" Only then did she remember the ticket and handed it to him. He canceled it and was pleased to get rid of her at last so that he could go on enjoying his cigar in peace.

Miss Sessions sometimes failed to understand that San Diego was growing into a city and that many newer people did not know her from any other little old lady. She often wore muddy shoes and had work-worn hands, looking as though she had just left her country chores to come to the city to do some errands. However, each day she wore an immaculate antique lace collar and treasured broach—even if sometimes she did not take time to freshen up.

There has been a lot of misinformation written about her accomplishments. One misunderstanding that I want to set straight is that she hybridized the unusual trees and plants her nursery was noted for. She no doubt had the knowledge, but her busy commercial business allowed neither the time nor facility to grow hybrid plants to maturity. Propagation, yes by the conventional methods: seeds, cuttings, layering—but not hybridizing.

One day a farmer near Lakeside brought in a specimen of a delicate blue-flowered, shrubby plant that had not been recognized, named or propagated. A more fame-seeking person would thereupon have named it *Ceanothus sessionsii,* but not the modest KOS. She wanted it called by a name that would describe its unusual color. In fact, she deplored that phase of plant discovery; to memorialize oneself at the expense of giving a plant a descriptive name that would help gardeners understand its potential, was almost a phobia with her. Thus, we know the plant as *Ceanothus cyaneus* or Lakeside lilac.

She was made very happy, but I doubt if much richer, when she planted the Persian Carpet composed of thousands of rare and colorful mesembryanthemum on Treasure Island, San Francisco. That she was more interested in a new plant and how it would adapt to local conditions than the monetary aspects of business sometimes caught her in a bind when the men had to be paid. Then we gassed up the chevvy and went to the bank; not hers, she'd explain when we neared downtown, but Mr. Sefton's bank could be depended upon to advance the money for the weekly stipend. My meager wages could wait, or be taken out in plants as frequently happened.

Among my souvenirs, besides the invaluable techniques of plant growing and appreciation of her philosophies, which I absorbed, are a few books and the impractical but beautiful plant boards an admiring young lad made for her to carry to Europe. But best of all is one of her roll-top desks where I compose my thoughts and writings.

When in San Diego about a year ago, I enjoyed a visit to some of my old familiar places with my former "nursery boy," George Kempland. I was happy to learn that they plan another Kate Sessions succulent garden in Balboa Park. I recall planting flats of a delightful little annual mesembryanthemum to be set out in her garden for the exposition. Yet, her knowledge of the kind of plant material that should be planted in the arid land was not always taken too seriously. She resisted recommending camellias up to the very last, but Mr. Sefton defied even that knowledgeable little lady and bought a collection of the elegant plants. When they were in their best bloom, he had "open garden" so that people could view the lovely luxuriant plantings.

On the way home, more to herself than to me, she remarked, "I might as well have had that nice order." □

Reprinted from 1973 November-December *California Garden*.

[When Margaret Wheatly knew Kate Sessions, Miss Sessions was about 80 with failing health. The planting she did on Treasure Island for the San Francisco 1939-40 World's Fair was probably her last big commission.

Culottes, a wide-legged knee-length pant, were introduced in 1936.]

COMMUNICATIONS . . .

WE WELCOME LETTERS PERTAINING TO GARDENS!

We request comments from readers who feel that we have provided incorrect information. The goal is to give readers the best gardening knowledge available.

Rosa multiflora

Some information has come to our attention concerning last month's cover plant, ***Rosa multiflora***. Steve Jones, in an article in the March "Rose Ecstasy" newsletter of the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society says that *R. multiflora* has become naturalized, and in the Midwest they are trying to find ways to eradicate this pest, which is taking over valuable grazing land. It was proposed to use rose rosette, a lethal virus for roses, for this purpose. However, the virus is not rose specific and most of the roses in the Midwest are grafted on *R. multiflora* rootstock. This issue has not been resolved—*R. multiflora* was commonly used for freeway barriers, especially in the Pacific Northwest region.

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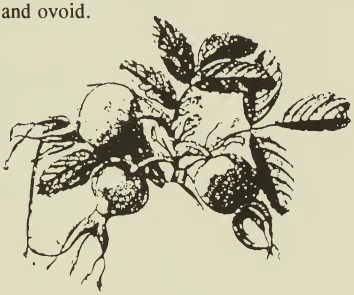
"ROSE HIPS" CORRECTION

Due to editorial error in the May-June 1998 issue, in the "Rose Hips Vary" article, the captions on three of the drawings were switched. Here is the way part of page 75 should have appeared:

HYBRID MUSK, native to Southern Europe, and North Africa to Asia, arching, overhanging, 5-7 leaflets; hips, small and ovoid.



Rosa rugosa, native to China and Japan. To 6 feet, densely prickly and bristly, 5-9 leaflets, hips 1-inch red with erect sepals.

Rosa spinosissima (R. pimpinellifolia), Scotch or Burnet Rose, low to 3 feet; erect, prickles and bristles, up to 13 serrate leaflets, hips, roundish, purplish-black.

Book Reviews

PERENNIAL ALL STARS
Jeff Cox

Emmaus, Pa., Rodale Press Inc., 1998, 352 pages, 260 color photos, 7½" x 9⅛", hardcover, $29.95

There are probably more Jeff Cox "groupies" out there than just me. The ubiquitous Mr. Cox has provided us with years of excellent garden and food advice through his many books, columns, magazine articles and in his television shows on PBS and HGTV. Mr. Cox's latest book is a compendium of his favorite perennials. To make the list these perennials have to be reliable performers worthy of space in the garden, easy to grow, and pest and disease resistant. As the author points out, every magazine article and every seed catalog baits us with descriptions and photos of plants that are purported to be show stoppers for our perennial beds and borders. After tracking down these frequently esoteric beauties, we may find that they do not perform to our expectations in our own gardens. A lot of this experimentation — which can lead to disappointment, disillusion, and desenchantment — can be avoided by relying on this book. Using the lists of acceptable sites and conditions based on exposure, soil and moisture conditions, and other plant needs that are found in this book, and then matching these needs against the lists of seasonal bloomers, a successful perennial bed can be achieved with less time, effort, and money invested.

The descriptions of the individual all-star perennials include where and how to grow the plants, height and width at maturity, sources for seeds and plants, propagation advice as well as extra information not always found in books of this type. Related cultivars and varieties are discussed briefly as well as companion plants that show off to mutual advantage. The color photos are not just the standard seed catalog type photos but frequently show the plant in a garden setting as well. This is the kind of information that only comes from years of gardening trial and error passed on from experienced gardeners. This is a book that flower gardeners will find honest and useful.

Reviewed by Connie Beck

GARDENING WITH GRASSES
Michael King and Piet Oudolf

Portland, Timber Press, 1998, 152 pages, 161 color photos, 9" x 11", hardcover, $34.95

There's lawns, there's weeds and there's bamboo...and that's all that some folks think they need to knowabout grasses. But as this book so handsomely illustrates, the range in texture, form, and color in grasses, sedges, and reeds can provide excitement to any planting scheme. The forward by Beth Chatto describes them as "the adjectives that soften your statements or make them sparkle."

The many situations in which ornamental grass can be utilized are the chosen approach to the many plant families surveyed. Plant associations — for instance, the mixing of grasses in perennial borders, lead to an exploration of the grasses themselves as borders or ground covers. A how-to section reviews growing methods and lists grasses, rushes, sedges and bamboos, with notes on growing conditions, etc. included.

King is a noted garden writer and consultant in Britain, while Oudolf is a plantsman who has been designing parks and gardens in Europe for the past twenty-five years. Both men contributed their photographic skills to enhance their text, including many photos of Oudolf's personal garden in Holland. Especially notable are breathtaking scenes capturing the effect of light on grasses at various times of the year. Although much of the perspective is that of the European gardener, Southern Californians will find much to inspire them about the uses of ornamental grasses in the landscape.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

MAKING GARDENS: An Essential Guide to Planning and Planting
Patrick Taylor

Portland, Timber Press, 1998, 244 pages, 136 color photos, 40 color drawings, 7½" x 10¼", hardcover, $29.95

Making a garden means making a lot of decisions, the first one having to do with the kind of garden you want. Will it be large or intimate, formal or informal, tropical or dry: the possibilities are endless but this beautiful book by one of England's leading garden writers should help anyone, experienced gardener or not, to plan garden to satisfy all your needs.

Utilizing a magazine-type format, Taylor presents four-page "articles" about twenty-five of England and Holland's most beautiful gardens: two Southern California

gardens are also included. Each garden is described in detail, with full and half-page photos, and a carefully rendered plot-plan in watercolor by Charlotte Molesworth. In each garden, Taylor has identified a particular element to discuss and photograph. Because many of his design examples are taken from the gardens of such luminaries as Christopher Lloyd and Beth Chatto, the book offers sharply focused glimpses of famous garden shrines.

Would "a sitting place embowered in flowers in a walled garden" fulfill your dreams? Or how about "a sunken garden enlivened by a decorative rill," or "making a virtue out of limited urban space?" Taylor takes the reader from castle walled garden to a cottage border, to potagers, conservatories, and swimming pool gardens, each with a particular feature that could be translated into anyone's plot-plan. Although oriented to the lands of four seasons, most of the plants shown are familiar to Southern California gardeners. They are listed in a very complete plant directory at the end of the book. A subject index is also included.

In her forward Rosemary Verey recommends the use of a note book for collecting ideas when visiting gardens. Get out your pencils...this armchair garden tour will be a great place to start.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

HARDY PERENNIALS
Graham Rice
Portland, Timber Press, 1997, 210 pages, 42 color photos, 29 b & w line drawings, 7⅜" x 9⅝", softcover, $17.95

Enthusiasm and great depth of knowledge shine from this handsome book. The author is a prolific garden writer in England who seems to have read and/or known all the others of his ilk. His plant descriptions are informal and informative almost to a fault, but maybe that's just the frustrated reaction of a reader who happens not to garden in Zone 8, the author's region of reference. However, the manner of discourse is so inviting that practical application becomes irrelevant.

After briefly explaining his definition of perennials, i.e., plants that die back during the winter, Rice organizes his book into seasons, presenting his candidates for bloom and garden interest through the year. Plant descriptions include histories — origins, discovery, and cultivation. Mixed in with tips on planting and propagation are anecdotes involving such British legends as E. A. Bowles and Marjorie Fish, two of his favorites. Elegant line drawings and vibrant color photos accompany the text. The book concludes with "Hardly a Bibliography," a four-page mini-review of the author's print resources, followed by an extensive index.

Although southern California gardeners will recognize such familiar plants as iris, geraniums, hellebores, etc., the species and varieties described are not always the one found in our area. But that really won't matter to the plant person eager to be immersed in the richness and diversity of the horticultural world.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

GARDENS OF THE SPIRIT: Create Your Own Sacred Spaces
Roni Jay
New York, Sterling Publishing Co. Inc., 1998, 144 pages, color throughout, 7¼" x 9", hardcover, $19.95

The introductory chapter "A Piece of Heaven" explores the idea that the garden has always represented paradise on earth. The Chinese had the first gardens followed by those of the Near East. In fact, the word "paradise" comes from the Persian word for garden. Creating and maintaining a garden can be a spiritual experience. Weeding can almost be a form of meditation as it can relieve stress by emptying the mind.

Cultures have different attitudes to nature and this is reflected in their garden styles. The Taoist garden with water and simple buildings, the Zen garden with stones and raked gravel or water, the Islamic garden with a geometric display of symbolism, the Medieval garden with enclosed gardens and paths, the Italian Renaissance garden with water, terraces and statutes, and the English Knot garden usually a square shape with mazes and labyrinths.

The last type of garden included is the Healing Garden. These were first planted by those who practiced medicine with the herbs they grew. They were designed to recreate the Garden of Eden by collecting all plants known to man. It was believed that if you had all the plants in the world you would have a cure for every illness. In effect these were the first botanical gardens.

Each type of garden is analyzed and its development traced with photos of specific examples. The components of each specific garden are discussed with instructions for creating the garden, including a list of typical plants.

It's a wonderful book whether you intend to create your own sacred space or read it as a history of gardening.

Reviewed by R. Cox

The latest in the quarterly Brooklyn Botanical Gardening Series is **The Shady Border**. Three essays are followed by an Encyclopedia of shade perennials divided by dry, moist and wet shade. Priced at $9.95 but this series is included in the $35 membership. Their address is 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn NY, 11225-1099

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Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

GENERAL MEETINGS
1998

October 20, 1998
5:45 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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CARLSBAD NEWCOMERS' GARDEN GROUP
Chairman: Marjorie E. Krieg 760-434-5232
Monthly meetings to explore local nurseries and gardens to acclimate themselves to the area and to new garden conditions.
Call for information.

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THE VISTA GARDEN CLUB
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Pres. Lit Phan
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Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Wed
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4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building
Quail Gardens

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PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
SOCIETY
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Quail Gardens

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E-mail: srocha@pacbell.net
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Jun/Aug/Nov - Joslyn Sr Ctr, 18402 West
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SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
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Canoga Park Women's Club,
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

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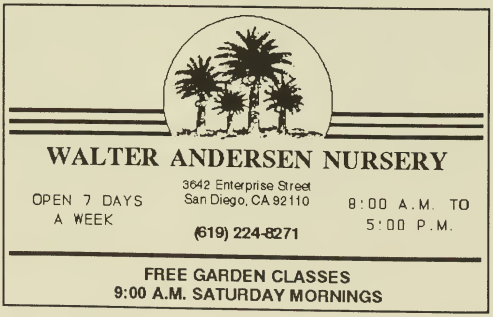
AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 2125 Park Boulevard, San Diego CA 92101-4792. Call 232-5762.

Deadline for Sep-Oct issue: Jul 15, 1998

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free advertisement once each year? It should be "camera ready" (suitable to be sent to printer). The text should be enclosed in a border. The border must be included when measuring dimensions, which are to be 3.5 (3½) inches wide by 2.25 (2¼) inches high. If done on a computer, please use a font that does not resemble typewriting.



("Now Is the Time — Roses," continued from page 115)

frequently appearing near the bud union, which has been caused by a careless shovel or cultivator. It is a good time to dig a large hole, replace the growing medium, and be ready for a replacement.

TO SELECT replacements, it is wise to study the varieties you are considering at various times of the season and in locations having the same growing conditions as yours. Beauty is indeed in the eye of the beholder and seeing is believing.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAKE last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans, summer squash) in July for fall harvest.

TO PLANT seed of cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.

TO COVER seed with floating row cover to protect young plants from insect pests.

TO WITHHOLD water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.

TO CONTROL corn earworm, apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or *Bt* when silk first emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS
from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans (snap and pole, lima in July), broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, corn (July), cucumbers (July), lettuce (head), peas, potatoes (August), summer squash — sweet alyssum, centaureas, dianthus, mignonette, annual phlox, portulaca, and Virginia stock (*Malcomia).*

Antonelli Brothers

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A small nursery adjacent to the garden specializes in English Roses, antique roses and select perennials/shrubs.

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9:00 am - till sundown Sat & Sun, or by appointment. Open Friday through Monday during the month of July.

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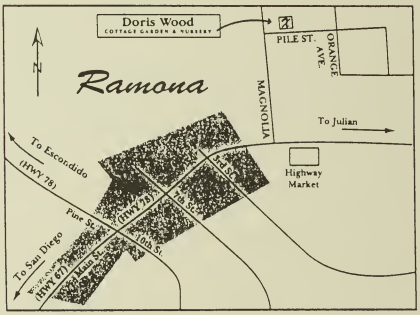
Admission is free. A donation box is located in the garden; proceeds help maintain the garden.



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PERIODICALS POSTAGE

KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is now available at the San Diego Floral Association office in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. The book contains a plant index and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as the "Mother of Balboa Park" she was also known as the "Aunt of San Diego." For over 50 years she devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how, in this book that is for sale in the San Diego Floral Office for $18.00 (tax included) — $15.00 (tax included) for members. If you wish a copy mailed to you, use the coupon below and enclose $3.00 for handling and mailing.

The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions 1909 - 1939

☐ $21.00 non-members (book, tax, mailing)
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